Meeting of External Affairs Minister with US Deputy Secretary to State

1569. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached at the meeting between the External Affairs Minister and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India and the US are engaged in a bilateral dialogue on security and non proliferation issues. The talks are being conducted on the basis of the comprehensive proposals that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, our unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting this moratorium into a *de jure* obligation, our offer to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies. The dialogue has led to some progress in creating a better understanding of India's security concerns by the US authorities. The dialogue was resumed in London on 16th and 17th November. Both sides have agreed that the purpose of the on-going dialogue is to enhance understanding of respective points of view and lay the foundation of broad-based, forward-looking and mutually beneficial relations and that it should continue. A Joint Press Statement was issued at the conclusion of the discussions in London.

Declaration of Jehad by Osama Bin Laden

1570. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have raised the issue regarding declaration of 'Jehad' against India by Islamic terrorist Osama Bill Laden at the world level; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has firmly focussed the attention of the international community of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross